**REMARKS**

Claims 1- 8, 16 and 17 are pending; Claims 9-15 and 18 have been canceled.

Claims 1-8, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Harrington, US Patent No. 6,400,467.

Harrington describes a method and apparatus for locating and coloring true boundaries of image elements forming a color image defined with colors having one or more color separations. Once a boundary of an image element is located and determined to be a true boundary of the color image, the original color of the image element boundary is mapped to a solid color so that ragged edges created when rendering certain colors are minimized when reproducing the color image element. (See Abstract of Harrington.)

Applicant's independent Claim 1 claims a method of improving edge rendering of objects, comprising: providing a first object which has a portion of a common edge with a second object; wherein the first object has associated with it a first region of a tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the first object; wherein the second object has associated with it a second region of the tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the second object; specifying a number of pixels located on the portion of the common edge between the first object and the second object to be modified, wherein modification may include increasing or decreasing the number of pixels on one of the first object or the second object; and modifying the first region of the tag plane corresponding to the first object by the specified number of pixels at the boundary of the first and second objects.

An "appearance hint" is not a tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the object.

Applicant believes that the user specified "appearance hints" on Figure 5 of Harrington are not the same as "a tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the first object" as claimed by Applicant. In Applicant's method, the term "tag" or "hint" refers to complimentary data to be used in conjunction with the digital contone data to optimally render each pixel of a digital image. Each pixel of the contone plane is assumed to have a corresponding pixel in the tag plane.

Harrington changes the color of the pixel at the edge of the object; Applicant's method modifies the tag (rendering hint) associated with a group of pixels at the boundary.

Applicant's method "dilates" (or contracts) the tag boundaries associated with negative text or line art. For example, for negative text or line art, raggedness at the boundary can be solved by one pixel growth of the text tag plane outward (and a corresponding one pixel contraction of the fill tag plane), but it is not limited to this in the general case. In fact, this technique is not limited to negative text/line art; it can be applied to all object types, depending on need. The method may be used whenever two different object types share a portion of a common edge boundary and the rendering hint for the second object type conflicts with the rendering hint for the first object type. The color of the pixel is the same; only the rendering hint changes according to the change in the tag plane. Applicant's method includes "specifying a number of pixels located on the portion of the common edge between the first object and the second object to be modified, wherein modification may include increasing or decreasing the number of pixels on one of the first object or the second object; and modifying the first region of the tag plane corresponding to the first object by the specified number of pixels at the boundary of the first and second objects." The tag planes are modified; the color of the pixels is not.

Independent Claim 16 claims a compound object for transmission to a print engine, comprising: a first object and a second object, wherein the first object has a portion of a common edge with a second object; a tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the compound object; wherein the first object has associated with it a first region of the tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the first object; wherein the second object has associated with it a second region of the tag plane for defining rendering hints for rendering the second object; a modification region located at the portion of the common edge, wherein the modification region includes a specified number of pixels located on the portion of the common edge between the first object and the second object; and wherein the modification region increases one of the first region and the second region of the tag plane by the specified number of pixels at the boundary of the first and second objects and correspondingly decreases the other of the first region and the second region of the tag plane by the specified number of pixels at the boundary of the first and second objects.

Claims 1 and 16 are believed not to be anticipated by Harrington. Since Claims 2-8 depend from Claim 1 and Claim 17 depends from Claim 16, those claims are also believed not to be anticipated by Harrington.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Consideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicant, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,

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